

# The IGUANA



Volume 15, No. 19

September 19, 2003



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

## September 11

Joint Task Force Bravo service members watch a presentation dealing with the events surrounding Sept. 11 during a remembrance ceremony at the dining facility. Thursday marked the second anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Towers, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93.

# Honduras experiencing pink eye epidemic

**By Maj. Mary T. Cristal**  
Chief of Preventive Medicine Services

Honduras is experiencing a conjunctivitis epidemic.

The outbreak began several weeks ago and quickly spread, affecting 30,000 people.

Conjunctivitis, commonly known as "Pink Eye," is the inflammation of the conjunctiva, the thin, transparent layer that lines the inner eyelid and covers the white part of the eye.

Conjunctivitis can be caused by bacteria, viruses, allergies, or chemicals. The bacterial and viral forms are contagious. A virus is suspected in the

conjunctivitis outbreak in Honduras.

Signs and symptoms of conjunctivitis may include red, irritated eye(s), burning or scratchy feeling, and sometimes a watery or purulent (pus) discharge. Untreated conjunctivitis can lead to serious complications.

Conjunctivitis spreads very easily. The virus is contained in tears and in

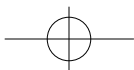
drainage or discharge from the eyes. It is possible to contract the disease by touching infected clothing, towels, or other objects such as infected doorknobs, phones, and computer keyboards.

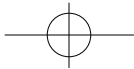
Hand washing is the number one preventive measure in stopping the spread of conjunctivitis.

Wash your hands with soap and water frequently, especially after touching doorknobs, phones, computer keyboards, and other objects that are used by multiple persons.

Any service member that is suspected of having conjunctivitis should report to MEDEL for immediate evaluation and appropriate treatment.

So far, 20 cases of conjunctivitis have been diagnosed among Joint Task Force-Bravo military and civilian employees. To help fight the spread of conjunctivitis on Soto Cano, fifty doses of medication have been donated to the Honduran Academy Clinic, by MEDEL, to base employees affected by this disease.





# JTF-Bravo members rewarded



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

JTF- Bravo Commander Col. William J. Phelps Jr. presents Sgt. 1st Class Lance Harris with a certificate.

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

Nineteen Joint Task Force Bravo service members were recognized for their hard work by Col. William G. Phelps, JTF-Bravo commander, Sept. 2.

Collectively, the group was responsible for helping a Honduran Army contingent deploy to Iraq Aug. 12-13.

Phelps thanked the service members for their hard work and dedication to duty.

“I don’t know if you all fully realized just what you were a part of,” he said. “You all contributed to the largest peace keeping operation supported in Joint Task Force Bravo history.”

After the recognition ceremony, the service members were given coins by their individual commanders.

## SUBMISSIONS

*The Iguana* is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to *The Iguana* should be sent to the PAO at [james.wyllie@jtfb.southcom.mil](mailto:james.wyllie@jtfb.southcom.mil) or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. D-06 . If you have questions about possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676 to talk to the editor.

## The IGUANA

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Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs Office, APO AA 34042, in Building D-06. Telephone numbers are 011-504-234-4634, ext. 4150 or 4676. Fax is ext. 4550. or DSN 449-4150/4676. Readers with story ideas should call the Public Affairs office. All photographs are property of JTF-Bravo unless otherwise noted.

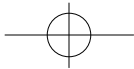
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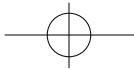


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

## Special Delivery

The Soto Cano Air Base AAFES Post Exchange prepares to send goodie bags to U.S. service members currently serving in Iraq. The bags contain canned snacks and personal hygiene items.





# Keeping Soto Cano connected



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

The 12 members of the Soto Cano Air Base switch board operator staff receive certificates of appreciation Sept. 8.

## SCAB switchboard operators thanked for job well done

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

The service members of Joint Task Force Bravo recognized the hard work of the SCAB switchboard operator staff Sept. 8 at the base theater.

Each staff member was awarded a certificate of achievement by Lt. Col. Douglas Robertson, ARFOR commander.

“All of us know how important your role is in day to day operations,” said Robertson. “Any one of us who calls home appreciates your value.”

The switchboard staff consists of 12 members who are responsible for the operation of the telephone communications network. 24 hours a day, seven days a week



U.S. AIR FORCE

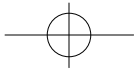
Happy 56th Birthday  
Sept. 18, 1947



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Ready for some football?

ARFOR receiver Anthony “P-Funk” Gambino runs down field for a touchdown during a game versus AFFOR Aug. 26. AFFOR won the game 20-14.



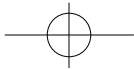


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Lt. Col. Jack Briggs, AFFOR commander presents a gift to a Honduran child during the AFFOR orphanage visit Sept. 10.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Honduran kids climb up a ladder in an Air Force C-5 during an orphanage visit.



A Honduran boy sits by the window of a Chinook helicopter. The child was one of a group of

# Making drea

## AFFOR brings orphans to

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

For many adults, the chance to spend a day with American service members would be a novel experience.

However, to the 90 Honduran orphans that visited Joint Task Force Bravo personnel at Soto Cano Air Base Sept. 10, the day was a fun-filled adventure that had a significant impact on the way they perceive the United States military.

“Today is Honduras’s national children’s day,” said Lt. Col. Jack Briggs, AFFOR commander. “For these orphans today has an extra special meaning because they get to spend the day with a squadron who

is dedicated to bringing satisfaction in meeting

Upon arrival to Soto groups and headed out tour various areas through places the kids had an cargo area of a C-5, the ter, and the cockpits of Along the way, they met members at work.

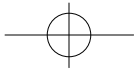
“There is a lot of pride from,” said Airman 1st makes me feel good to these kids and answer t

The highlight of the



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Airman 1st Class Cris Pennock holds a fire hose for Honduran kids to spray.



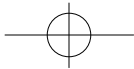


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

s who celebrated Honduras’s National Children’s Day with airmen at Soto Cano Sept. 10.

# is come true

## oto Cano for fun filled day

oy and gets personal  
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he children split into  
eir military escorts to  
the base. Some of the  
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r of a Chinook helicop-  
ran fighter planes.  
poke with JTF-Bravo  
  
ere these kids come  
ris Pennock. “It  
hance to speak to  
estions.”  
the boys and girls was

a pool party at which the children had lunch and en-  
joyed cake with service members. After the party, the  
kids were given presents by JTF-Bravo members.  
“These kids absolutely love it whenever we can  
spend time with them,” said Briggs. “Something as  
simple as holding a hand or giving a smile is better  
than any gift we can give.”  
As the last bus prepared to drive away, the chil-  
dren’s cheers could still be heard. Small hands thrust  
themselves out of windows as the kids waved back to  
the line of service members who had spent the day  
with them. Finally, the bus started to roll and the hap-  
py cries of children faded away.  
“Today was a good day,” said Staff Sgt. Donald  
Harris. “No, today was an excellent day.”



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

A Honduran boy grabs the steering column of an UH-47 Chinook helicopter during AFFOR’s children’s day Sept. 10.



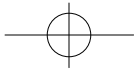
Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

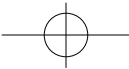
Air Force Master Sgt. Ernie Rudd swims with a Honduran girl during children’s day.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Honduran orphans tour a Chinook helicopter during AFFOR’s children’s day.





# Marines, airmen hone stick fighting skills



Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Myers puts Marine Pfc. Christopher Hughes into an arm lock during stick fighting training Sept. 4. Marine and Air Force Joint Security Force members practiced a variety of strikes, grapples and immobilization techniques in order to increase their fighting proficiency with their batons.

Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor



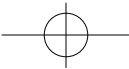
Senior Airman Brenda Flores and 1st Lt. Paul Stubbs practice low stick blocks.

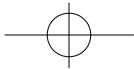


Marines Pfc. Bryan Scott (top) and Pfc. Raymond Pelly grapple. Below, Pfc. Michael Yearry (left) and Lance Cpl. George Hook square off.



Senior Airman Michael Landess dons a protective combat suit during training.





# AF doctors bring hope to sick children



U.S. Air Force and Honduran doctors wrap a Honduran child in a body cast after completing hip surgery. Below left, AF doctors operate on a Honduran child.



Airmen medics from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, operate on disabled Honduran children during two week visit.

Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor



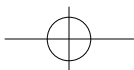
An X-ray reveals a patient's club foot.



Cpt. Colleen Christensen



Air Force Lt. Col. John D. Krause consults with other-doctors over a patient's x-ray prior to surgery.



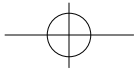


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

JTF-Bravo personnel observe a moment of silence for those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. The day was the worst terrorist attack on American soil in U.S. history.

# Remembering September 11th

**By Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn**  
JTF-bravo Command Chaplain

Sept. 11, 2001, a day now etched in history. Four flights left the East Coast headed for the West Coast, yet not one person aboard any of those flights would survive. Terrorist hijackers flew two planes into the World Trade Center towers, killing thousands of innocent people. A third plane exploded into the Pentagon, while the last plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

Families lost fathers, mothers and children. Co-workers and friends were suddenly gone, buried amid the rubble. Hours earlier breakfasts had been eaten, spouses kissed, children hugged and homes left for the last time. Who could have known it would all end - in just a moment?

Just as the senseless attacks destroyed buildings and our feelings of security, they also threatened our concept of a loving God. When we remember the deadly nerve gas released in Tokyo subways, the high-school students massacred at Columbine and the Oklahoma City bombing, belief in a loving God is a tall order. **Where was God in those critical moments that meant the difference between life and death for so many?**

He was there, in New York and

Washington, Tokyo and Columbine. He was with those who lived and those who died, hearing every prayer. He felt the anguish of every person suffering in confused darkness and silence. He grieved over the hideous sin perpetrated on those innocent people, but He wasn't surprised. Evil choices frequently affect innocent lives. God's commandments, designed to protect mankind from harm, had once again been ignored. Evil had again been chosen over good. This is the price of freedom. Those who could have chosen to love, chose instead to hate.

I have three children whom I love and would literally die for. They love me, too, but no one forces them to. It is a choice. While hopefully I have proven worthy of their love, one day they could choose not to love me, or even to hate me. Either way, it will be their choice. Though I teach my children to do good, others influence them to do evil. Sometimes they make good choices, sometimes they don't. This is a painful reality I live with. The same human race that produced penicillin also produced nerve gas. From the same pool of humanity came Mother Teresa and Osama bin Laden.

We can't help asking, "What kind of God would allow someone to inflict suffering and even death on innocent

men, women and children?" These questions cannot be completely answered from our perspective. But is the presence of evil any proof that God doesn't love us? If God is a God of love because my son came back from Vietnam, what will the parent or spouse conclude whose loved one didn't come back? If God is a God of love because my cancer goes into remission, what will the person conclude whose cancer rages out of control? If God's goodness depends on whether a loved one survived the terrorists' attack, how could we ever come to a consensus about what God is like?

God loves us because it is His nature to love. He does not have to choose between evil or good, for evil has no appeal to Him. He is a God of unending compassion. We, however, live in a world that offers everyone choices. We can choose to love, or hate. Unwilling to make us robots, God has given us freedom. I have never killed anyone, but I have at times been cruel, selfish and unkind to others. I have frequently chosen evil over good. Perhaps you can identify. We live in a world of choice, and too often the choices are evil ones.

Many are asking in their anguish, **Why didn't God intervene for the victims?** But He did! He died for them long before they were born, even for

those who would never believe in Him. God does not hide in times of trouble. He proved that on a cross 2,000 years ago. In the critical moment that spelled the difference between life and death for everyone in the whole world, through all of time, God intervened. He who could have remained safely in heaven chose to take on human form and, like a brave rescue worker, put Himself directly into harm's way. "There is no greater love than He who lays down His life for another" (John 15:13).

Although thousands of people died in a Tuesday of terrorism that we will never forget, God bids us to consider the Life available *after* death. We can accept God's act of love, through Jesus, on our behalf, as our entryway to eternity with Him, or we can ignore God's intervention and spend our eternity *without* Him.

Our world doesn't always make sense. In a moment we can experience tragedy and pain. Sometimes great pain. But through faith, God has provided a way to live in a world of evil with peace and hope. In a moment we can choose faith - a moment with eternal implications.

If you need to talk, contact CH (CPT) Tommy Vaughn, JTF-Bravo Command Chaplain at 6844 or 6845.

